(c) if not, whether Government will consider to get the work of such an assessment done;

(d) if so, by when; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor, alongwith the steps taken by Government to maintain the balance between the demand and the supply of edible oils so that edible oils can be available to common man at the reasonable price and the farmers can get the appropriate price of their mustard and oil seeds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) According to the projections for oilseeds/ edible oils made for the Tenth Five Year Plan, the annual requirement/ demand of edible oils in the country in terms of consumption of edible oils based on behaviouristic approach amounted to 11.85 million tonnes in 2005-06 compared to 11.30 million tonnes in 2004-05.

(c) to (e) Do not arise.

Complaints against Bata Shoe Company

1984. SHRI R.K. ANAND:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Bata Shoe Company is marketing sub-standard shoes and are not attending to consumer complaints; and

(b) if so, the action Government propose to take to protect the interest of consumers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) M/s Bata India Ltd., Bata Nagar is holding 5 BIS licences for different types of shoes. The performance of the licensee for the last three years has been found to be in order in all the licences held by them except for

one in which the marking has not yet been initiated. BIS has neither received any complaint from any quarter against the BIS certified product nor any complaint is pending with the BIS.

(b) question does not arise.

Substandard Gold Articles

1985. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that people in our country are purchasing around 15 percent of substandard gold articles and losing their hard earned money annually, according to the Bureau of Indian Standards;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken against such unethical business?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) During the year 2001-2002, Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) had conducted surveys in Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Hyderabad, Jaipur, Bangalore, Ahmedabad and Kolkata, associating consumer activists to find out the actual purity of gold jewellery available in the market as against the claims made by jewellers. About 11% of the samples tested were found conforming to the purity claimed. The survey revealed the average shortage of purity of 11%. India consumes around 880 tonnes of gold every year, of which 80% goes into jewellery manufacturing. Based on average 11% shortage in purity, as revealed in the survey, loss to consumers could be estimated at around Rs. 6000 crores annually.

(b) and (c) In order to protect the interests of the common consumers in the purchase of gold jewellery, BIS have launched the Hallmarking Scheme for Gold Jewellery.